

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes _____
no _____

Property Name: Lynch's Super Service Inventory Number: HA-2209
Address: 911 Pulaski Highway Historic district: yes ☒ no
City: Havre de Grace Zip Code: 21078 County: Harford
USGS Quadrangle(s): Havre De Grace
Property Owner: Ronald Lynch Tax Account ID Number: 06-025722
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 512 Tax Map Number: 601
Project: US 040 from Lewis Street to Erie Street Agency: State Highway Administration
Agency Prepared By: State Highway Administration
Preparer's Name: Jennifer Goold Date Prepared: 11/22/2010
Documentation is presented in: MIHP Form HA-2209
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: X Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility not recommended _____
Criteria: X A B X C D Considerations: A B C D E F G
Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:
Name of the District/Property: _____
Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: yes Listed: yes
Site visit by MHT Staff yes ☒ no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

Lynch's Super Service is an intact, ca. 1940 Art Deco style service station, located on Pulaski Highway (US 40) in Havre de Grace, Harford County, MD. The service station has a curvilinear T-shaped form and is banked into its site with integral retaining walls. The building is constructed of concrete masonry units (CMU). The primary elevations are parged and painted white and accented by plywood trim that is painted red. The service station retains its original fenestration, including garage doors, central entry door flanked by curved picture windows, clerestory, curved glass block windows, and industrial steel windows. The building is in good condition, although the roof needs to be replaced and water infiltration has damaged some trim. An added attraction at the site is a ca. 1960s "Muffler Man".

Erected ca. 1940, Lynch's Service Station at 911 Pulaski Highway meets Criterion A for its association with the significant historical context of automobile transportation development in Harford County in the second quarter of the 20th century. Pulaski Highway (US 40) was the Maryland State Roads Commission's principal construction effort of the 1930s. Erected on an entirely new alignment, this section of US 40 is lined by one of Maryland's most complete collections of mid-century automobile-related architecture. The Lynch family opened the station in 1948 and has operated it ever since. The building also meets Criterion C as a notable example of Streamline Moderne service stations erected by independent retailers in Maryland. The one-story service

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended _____
Criteria: ☒ A B ☒ C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

MHT Comments:

John J. [Signature]
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

[Signature]
Reviewer, National Register Program

1/6/11
Date

1/7/11
Date

HA-2209

Lynch's Super Service

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station was built as part of a planned service station / motel complex. While the motel was never completed, the station is significant on its own. The building has a distinctive streamlined appearance with a curved biomorphic form of parged concrete and integral glass walls. The building is designed with a drive through service bay and projecting filling station canopy to facilitate ease of service and render the building visible to drivers passing in both directions.

Lynch's Super Service retains integrity of Location, Design, Materials, Workmanship, Feeling, and Association. Located on Pulaski Highway, which is home to a full array of road-related resources, Lynch's Super Station is an intact, ca. 1940 Streamline Moderne service station. The building retains nearly all of its original features and materials and stands to convey its association with the development of automobile culture in Harford County.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____

Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services_____
Date_____
Reviewer, National Register Program_____
Date

CAPSULE SUMMARY
Lynch's Super Service (HA-2209)
911 Pulaski Highway, Havre-de-Grace, Harford County

Lynch's Super Service is an intact, ca. 1940 Art Deco style service station, located on Pulaski Highway (US 40) in Havre de Grace, Harford County, MD. The service station has a curvilinear T-shaped form and is banked into its site with integral retaining walls. The building is constructed of concrete masonry units (CMU). The primary elevations are parged and painted white and accented by plywood trim that is painted red. The service station retains its original fenestration, including garage doors, central entry door flanked by curved picture windows, clerestory, curved glass block windows, and industrial steel windows. The building is in good condition, although the roof needs to be replaced and water infiltration has damaged some trim. An added attraction at the site is a ca. 1960s "Muffler Man".

Erected ca. 1940, Lynch's Service Station at 911 Pulaski Highway reflects the impact of the automobile on transportation development in Harford County in the second quarter of the 20th century. Pulaski Highway (US 40) was the Maryland State Roads Commission's principal construction effort of the 1930s. Erected on an entirely new alignment, this section of US 40 is lined by one of Maryland's most complete collections of mid-century automobile-related architecture. The Lynch family opened the station in 1948 and has operated it ever since. Lynch's Super Service is a notable example of Streamline Moderne service stations erected by independent retailers. The one-story service station was built as part of a planned service station / motel complex. While the motel was never completed, the station is significant on its own. The building has a distinctive streamlined appearance with a curved biomorphic form of parged concrete and integral glass walls. The building is designed with a drive through service bay and projecting filling station canopy to facilitate ease of service and render the building visible to drivers passing in both directions.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HA-2209

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Lynch's Super Service

other n/a

2. Location

street and number 911 Pulaski Highway not for publication

city, town Havre de Grace vicinity

county Harford

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Ronald Lynch c/o Lynch's Super Service

street and number PO Box 116 telephone (410) 939-4266

city, town Havre de Grace state MD zip code 21078

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Maryland Land Records liber 7254 folio 160

city, town www.MDLandRec.net tax map 601 tax parcel 512 tax ID number 06-025722

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<input type="checkbox"/> Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
				0

7. Description

Inventory No. HA-2209

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

SUMMARY

Lynch's Super Service is an intact, ca. 1940 Art Deco style service station, located on Pulaski Highway in Havre de Grace, MD. The service station has a curvilinear T-shaped form and is banked into its site with integral retaining walls. The building is constructed of concrete masonry units (CMU). The primary elevations are parged and painted white and accented by red-painted plywood trim. The service station retains its original fenestration, including garage doors, central entry door flanked by curved picture windows, clerestory, curved glass block windows, and industrial steel windows. The building is in good condition, although the roof needs to be replaced and water infiltration has damaged some trim. An added attraction at the site is a ca. 1960s "Muffler Man".

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Lynch's Super Service, located at 911 Pulaski Highway in Harford County, MD, is a ca. 1940 Art Deco style service station. The property is located on the northwest side of Pulaski Highway in Havre de Grace, Maryland. The lot is terraced up from the roadway. The portion of the lot that is adjacent to the roadway is paved to serve the station. The building is banked into the terrace with curved concrete retaining walls that tie into and extend outward from the building. On the terrace behind the station is an open foundation, which the owner stated was constructed for a motel that was never built. The rear of the lot, which rises naturally above the terrace, is wooded.

The building's form establishes a hierarchy of use that is reinforced by the building finishes. The building has a tripartite form like a T with a curved top whose ends droop downward. The filling station component is located nearest the roadway, with the service area behind. The service section of the building is in the top of the T and the office and canopy that topped the filling pumps (now gone) are located in the base.

Lynch's Super Service is constructed of concrete masonry units (CMU). The primary elevations are stuccoed for a smooth monolithic appearance. The building is painted white with red trim. The walls and corners are curved so that the building has a biomorphic form without right angles or sharp corners. The service station has a flat roof. A simple projecting boxed cornice extends around the building and cantilevers in front to form a canopy.

The station's primary elevation is bilaterally symmetrical. The entry door is flanked by segmental plate glass windows that light the office, curved glass block windows that light the service bay, and service bay garage doors that are angled toward the street. The rear elevations are banked into the hillside with a light and drainage well surrounding the structure. CMU on the rear elevations is not parged. A clerestory and a substantial brick furnace chimney rises up through the center of the building. Windows on the secondary facades and in the clerestory are industrial steel sashes.

Lynch's Super Service is highly intact. It retains virtually all of its original exterior features, including building form, windows, doors, and interior fixtures and finishes. Only the original pumps and the signage, which necessarily change with evolving technology and supplier affiliation, are gone. The building is suffering from deferred maintenance. The flat roof is not shedding water properly and needs to be replaced. Resulting water infiltration has caused the plywood soffits and cornices to rot and some have been replaced by sheet metal or are missing. These finishes are constructed of mass-produced materials and in-kind repairs can easily return this building to excellent condition.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HA-2209

Name
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

An added attraction at the site is a "Muffler Man". "Muffler Men" are twenty foot tall fiberglass statues designed to attract drivers' attention to roadside service stations. One of three Muffler Men in Maryland, as noted in *Weird Maryland*, the Lynch's Muffler Man is painted in a Desert Storm combat uniform (to appeal to local residents affiliated with Aberdeen Proving Ground), which garners him special attention on the website dedicated to Roadside America (<http://www.roadsideamerica.com/story/2115>, accessed 10/19/2010). Steve Dashew of International Fiberglass, produced the Muffler Men through the 1960s (an offshoot of the Paul Bunyon form). While, altered through the application of paint in the 1990s, he clearly retains his "Muffler Man" form and will reach 50 years of age in the coming decade.

8. Significance

Inventory No. HA-2209

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☐ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

SUMMARY

Erected ca. 1940, Lynch's Service Station at 911 Pulaski Highway reflects the impact of the automobile on transportation development in Harford County in the second quarter of the 20th century. Pulaski Highway (US 40) was the Maryland State Roads Commission's principal construction effort of the 1930s. Erected on an entirely new alignment, this section of US 40 is lined by one of Maryland's most complete collections of mid-century automobile-related architecture. The Lynch family opened the station in 1948 and has operated it ever since. Lynch's Super Service is a notable example of Streamline Moderne service stations built by independent retailers. The one-story service station was constructed as part of a planned service station / motel complex. While the motel was never completed, the station is significant on its own. The building has a distinctive streamlined appearance with a curved biomorphic form of parged concrete and integral glass walls. The building is designed with a drive through service bay and projecting filling station canopy to facilitate ease of service and render the building visible to drivers passing in both directions. The property displays a high degree of integrity.

HISTORY

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) documentation for Marlboro 301 Gas-n-Go (PG: 79-79) [NR-Eligible] includes a clear summary of Service Station history that provides the historical and architectural context for evaluating Lynch's Service Station. That context is not repeated in this form.

Service Station construction boomed between 1920 and 1940 to serve the ballooning population of Americans who owned personal automobiles. Stations were built in regional architectural styles, residential models, as "pop" architecture, and in the new Art Deco style, all carefully modeled to either complement their surroundings or draw the attention of passers-by. Built at the end of the filling and service station's "Golden Age", 911 Pulaski is built in the Streamline Moderne variant of the Art Deco style. Mid-century gas stations were "Geared to the fast-moving traveler, its details were either crude or nonexistent; creating a single effect or image was of utmost importance." (Vieyra 1979, xiii)

Lynch's Super Service has a functionalist form -- the T-shape renders the building's functions visible to drivers and simplifies patron usage. The form of the building was carefully designed to separate functions and allow for drive-through service and filling. The Moderne style, as implied within its name, was designed to connote modernity and the curvilinear form to evoke motion, both of which were powerful images associated with the automobile.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HA-2209

Name
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

Lynch's Super Service is located on Pulaski Highway, in Havre de Grace, Maryland. U.S. Route 40 (US 40) runs from western Maryland to Cecil County in the state's northeastern corner. The portion east of Baltimore is a four-lane divided highway, known as the Pulaski Highway (named for Casimir Pulaski). During the 1930s, the State Roads Commission built a 30-mile, dual-lane divided highway linking Baltimore and Aberdeen. Designed to alleviate traffic congestion along the much-traveled, Colonial-era, Philadelphia Road (current MD 7), the new Philadelphia Road was Maryland's principal construction effort of the 1930s. Erected on an entirely new alignment bypassing established towns and railroad crossings, Pulaski Highway is lined by one of Maryland's most complete collections of mid-century automobile-related architecture, including motels, diners, strip malls and gas stations. The builders of 911 Pulaski Highway finished the building just as the United States entered the WWII period of austerity. Gas rationing was imposed beginning in December 1942 and lasted through the war, making gas station business difficult during the war years. However, it boomed again in the post-war period until the 1970s.

Lynch's Super Service was constructed in ca. 1940. According to the current owner, the original owner also built the motel across the street and planned on a building a motel behind the service station. The Lynch family purchased the property, which had apparently never been previously opened, on Thanksgiving 1948 and ran the business for their entire lives – Ron running the automotive side and his wife Elmer doing the paperwork. Their son, Ronald, is now the proprietor (phone conversation with Ronald Lynch, 11/10/2010). With the completion of I-95, which runs parallel to Pulaski Highway, the thoroughfare has become a secondary road. Lynch's is now a local car repair station with limited hours of operation.

Lynch's Super Service retains integrity of Location, Design, Materials, Workmanship, Feeling, and Association. Located on Pulaski Highway, which is home to a full array of road-related resources, Lynch's Super Station is an intact, ca. 1940 Streamline Moderne service station. The building retains nearly all of its original features and materials and stands to convey its association with the development of automobile culture in Harford County.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. HA-2209

- Lake, Matt. *Weird Maryland: your travel guide to Maryland's local legends and best kept secrets*. Sterling Pub. Co., 2006.
- Margolies, John. *Pump and Circumstance: the Glory Days of the Gas Station*. Boston: Little, Brown, and Company, 1993.
- Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) Form. Marlboro 301 Gas-n-Go (PG: 79-79).
- Vieyra, Daniel I. *"Fill'er Up": an architectural history of America's gas station*. New York: Macmillian Publishing Co., Inc., 1979.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 27,040 sf
Acreage of historical setting 27,040 sf
Quadrangle name Havre de Grace Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary corresponds to the current property boundary of Map 601, parcel 512, which is the property boundary for Lynch's Super Station as described in Deed referenced Liber 7254 folio 160.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Jennifer Good, Architectural Historian		
organization	State Highway Administration	date	November 18, 2010
street & number	707 N. Calvert Street	telephone	410-545-2899
city or town	Baltimore	state	MD

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

RoadsideAmerica.com

Your Online Guide to Offbeat Tourist Attractions

Desert Storm Muffler Man

Field Review by
the Team at
RoadsideAmerica.com**Havre de Grace, Maryland**

Ron Lynch painted camouflage fatigues onto his auto service center's muffler man back in 1991, as an honest show of support to US troops in the Persian Gulf. Today, the Desert Storm Muffler Man continues his watch at Lynch's Super Service, positioned as if to hold a rifle in close order drill.

On the back of his pants is the label "Made in USA."

Ron and his wife, who run the the Super Service, say that the big guy has been here since the early '60's. He posed as a service station attendant until Ron's impromptu patriotic tribute.

M-Man's jaunty campaign hat, also camouflaged, was eventually moved to the garage, due to fractures in the fiberglass caused by high winds. The Lynchs have some precision computer alignments to do, but they'll show you the hat if you politely ask.

Coalitions dissolve, loyalties shift -- but the Desert Storm Hero will stay at his post.

Also see: Muffler Men



Desert Storm Muffler Man

Address: 911 Pulaski Hwy., Havre de Grace, MD

Directions: Lynch's Super Service. US 40 South/Pulaski Hwy, just south of Otsego St on right.

Hours: Always visible. (Call to verify)

Phone: 410-939-4266

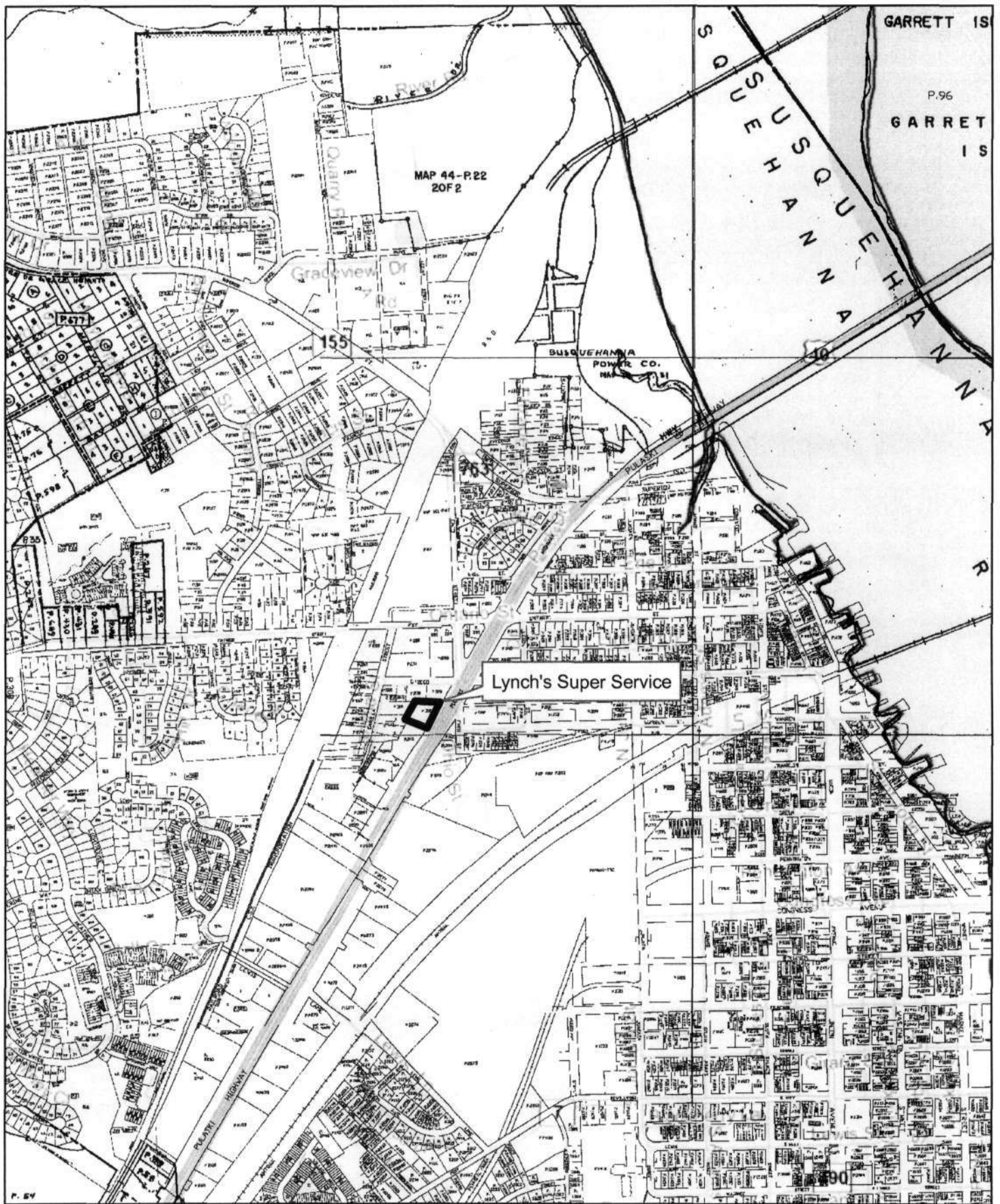
[Show Map]

Nearby Offbeat Places

- Atomic Cannon, Aberdeen, MD - 6 mi.
- Army Ordnance Museum, Aberdeen, MD - 6 mi.
- Herr's Factory Tour, Nottingham, PA - 14 mi.
- In the region: Most Stolen Town Signs, Intercourse, PA - 34 mi.

HA22-09

Lynch's Super Service – 911 Pulaski Highway
Harford County

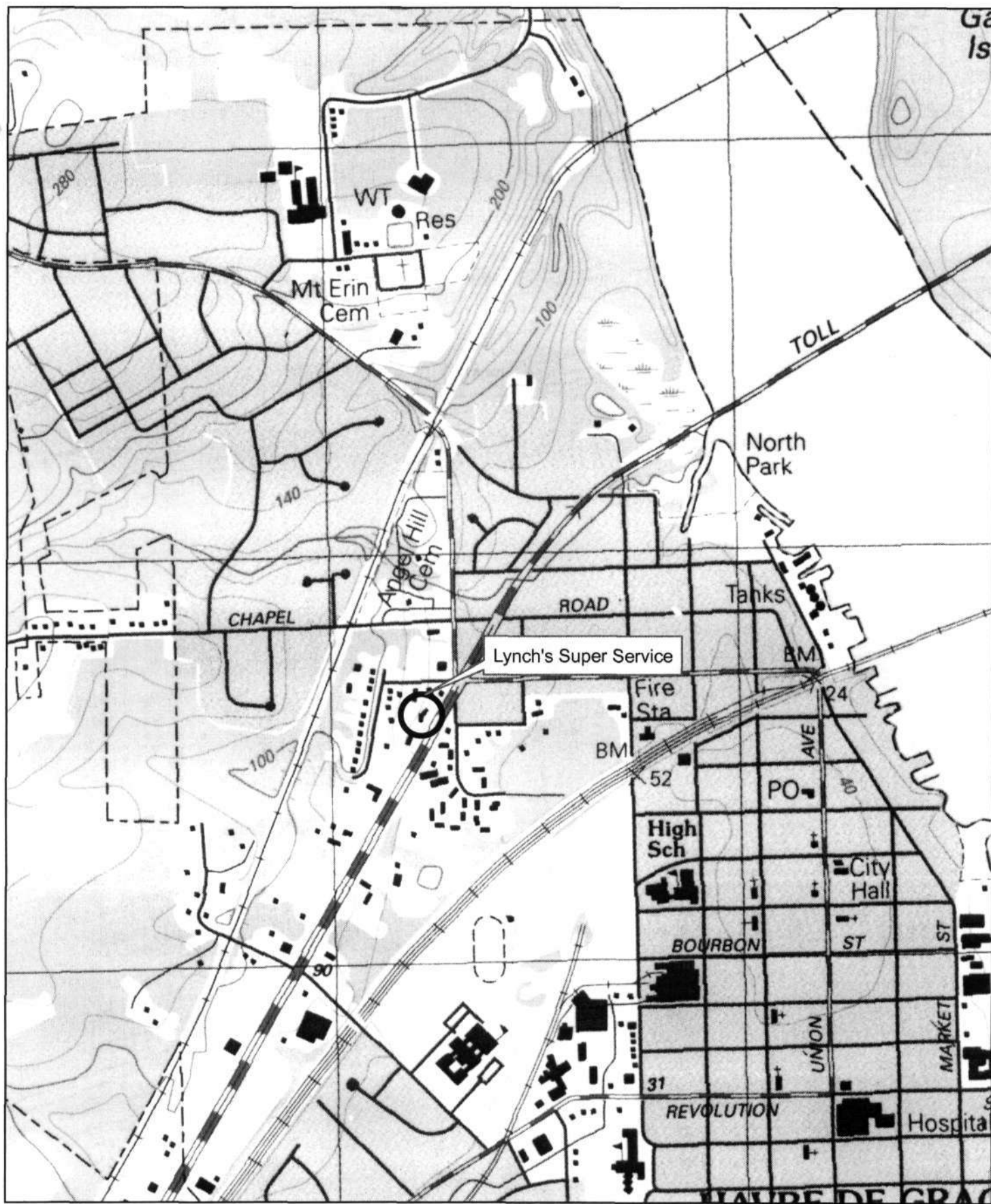


Parcel Map

Lynch's Super Service - 911 Pulaski Highway
Harford County

0.00.06 0.12 Miles





Havre de Grace USGS Quad

Lynch's Super Service - 911 Pulaski Highway
Harford County

0.00.06 0.12 Miles



**Maryland State Highway Administration
Cultural Resources Section
Photo Log**

Project No.: AX860B21
Project Name: US 40 from Lewis Lane to Erie Street
MIHP No.: HA-2209
MIHP Name: 911 Pulaski Highway
County: Harford
Photographer: Jennifer Goold
Date: 10-21-2010
Ink and Paper Combination: Epson UltraChrome pigmented ink/Epson Premium Luster Photo Paper
CD/DVD: Verbatim, CD-R, Archival Gold

Image File Name	Description of View
HA-2209_2010-10-05_01	View north
HA-2209_2010-10-05_02	View south
HA-2209_2010-10-05_03	View north
HA-2209_2010-10-05_04	View south
HA-2209_2010-10-05_05	View northeast
HA-2209_2010-10-05_06	View southwest
HA-2209_2010-10-05_07	View west
HA-2209_2010-10-05_08	View west
HA-2209_2010-10-05_09	View north
HA-2209_2010-10-05_10	View north
HA-2209_2010-10-05_11	View northwest
HA-2209_2010-10-05_12	Interior view office
HA-2209_2010-10-05_13	Interior view shop

4WHEEL
COMPUTER
ALIGNMENT



HA-2209

Lynch's Service Station

Harford County, MD

Jennifer Gould

October 2010

MD SHPO

View North

1 of 13



HA-2209

Lynch's Service Station

Harford County, MD

Jennifer Gould

October 2010

MD SHPO

View South

2 of 13



HA-2209

Lynch's Service Station

Harford County, MD

Jennifer Gould

October 2010

MP SHPO

view north

3 of 13

UPS

COMPUTER
ALIGNMENT

RONALD LYNCH

572



HA-2209

Lynch's Service Station

Harford County, MD

Jennifer Gould

October 2010

MD SHPO

View South

4 of 13



HA-2209

Lynch's Service Station

Harford County, MD

Jennifer Gould

October 2010

MD SHPO

View northeast

5 of 13



RONALD LYNCH

Independent National Association

977

HA-2209

Lynch's Service Station

Hartford County, MD

Jennifer Gould

October 2010

MD SHPD

View Southwest

bof 13



HA-2209

Lynch's Service Station

Harford County, MD

Jennifer Gould

October 2010

MO SHPO

View west

7 of 13



HA-2209

Lynch's Service Station

Harford County, MD

Jennifer Good

October 2010

MD SHPO

view west

8 of 13



HA-2209

Lynch's Service Station

Harford County, Md

Jennifer Gould

October 2010

MD SHPD

View north

9 of 13



HA-2209

Lynch's Service Station

Harford County, MD

Jennifer Gould

October 2010

MD SHPO

view north

10 of 13



HA-2209

Lynch's Service Station

Harford County, MD

Jennifer Gould

October 2010

MD SHPO

View northwest

11 of 13



HA-2209

Lynch's Service Station

Harford County, MD

Jennifer Gould

October 2010

MD SHPO

Interior view - office

12 of 13



HA- 2209

Lynch's Service Station

Harford County, MD

Jennifer Gould

October 2010

MD SHPO

Interior view - shop

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